

I



The Health of Newport

1971



BOROUGH OF NEWPORT

ISLE OF WIGHT

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971



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BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, I.W.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1971 - 1972

Chairman - Alderman H.E. Harvey, C.C.

Vice-Chairman - P.W. Swan, Esq., AIAS, MRSH

The Mayor : Councillor P. Bryan, FSVA

H. Bowen, Esq.,

F.E. Butler, Esq.,

T.P. Cunningham, Esq.,

L. Say, Esq.

Mrs. D.M.E. Krishnamma

W.J. McKeown, Esq.

B.R. Greening, Esq.

F.T. Jones, Esq.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.

Tel: Newport 4031

To His Worship The Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.

MR MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough
for the Year 1971.

The comparative birth rate (16.2) was slightly lower than the previous
year (17.1) but was still fairly close to the figure for England and Wales (16.0).
Over ten per cent of the children born in the borough were illegitimate and this is
a problem which concerns the Island generally. Our neighbouring borough, Ryde,
has made several requests in recent years to the County Council to look into this
matter and a working party is now conducting a survey. It is hoped that free family
planning for all and a more liberal attitude to requests for the termination of unwanted
pregnancies will also be given consideration. Such measures would obviously not
solve this problem but they would be a step in the right direction.

The comparative death rate (9.3) was once again below the national figure
(11.6). The infant mortality rate (27.1) tended to be on the high side but this is not
unusual in a community having a high illegitimacy rate.

There were no incidents of food poisoning reported during the year but food
hygiene has been the constant concern of your Public Health Inspectors. In this field
very much is achieved by encouragement and advice and it is with great reluctance
and only in exceptional circumstances that prosecution has to be considered. Food
hygiene in the Borough's hotels, restaurants and cafes is now of a higher standard
than ever, due to the invaluable co-operation from those concerned with the manage-
ment of these establishments.

No council can be more sympathetic towards the housing needs of the community
it serves than Newport Borough but many people, not only the applicants for houses,
but also doctors, health visitors and social workers, sometimes imply that not
enough is being done. Their feelings are quite understandable, as there are many
people in the borough whose health, both mental and physical, would improve by
re-housing in better accommodation. One can only suggest that anyone in doubt about

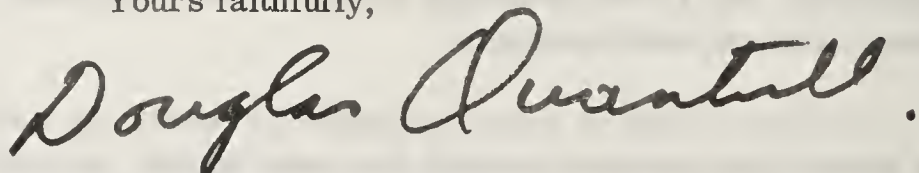
the council's efforts in this sphere should exercise the right to attend a meeting of the Housing and Public Health Committee, to which the public is admitted, and where it is apparent that neither councillors nor officials are dragging their feet over this problem. One of the major difficulties which has to be faced is the shortage of land on which to build and it is obvious that in the near future areas of white land will have to be released not, for example, to utilise for the provision of summer residences for visiting yachtsmen but for council house estates.

I am pleased to report that 1971 was the last year in which the Borough's refuse was disposed of by the method of crude tipping and in future will be dealt with by the modern method of pulverisation, where the end product is a harmless material free from the hazards of fire, infestation or other pollution. This innovation has been achieved by a joint effort with other councils, and Mr F.K. Aze, in his capacity as your refuse disposal officer has played a prominent part in the successful introduction of this scheme.

As will be seen further on in this report good progress was made in the implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. This legislation enables improvements to be made in the conditions of work of those employed in offices and shops and deals with such items as lighting, heating, ventilation, sanitary and washing facilities. It also embraces safety standards for fire and other risks. Its implementation therefore helps to ensure that working conditions are not only healthier and safer but more comfortable and it is therefore of considerable benefit to the employees concerned.

I conclude by thanking the Public Health Inspectors and other staff of the Health Department for their continued efficient work and loyalty and I respectfully express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their help and support during the year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Douglas Quantrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS 1971

Medical Officer of Health:

D.W. QUANTRILL, MB, Ch. B., MRCS., LRCP., DPH., DTM & H.,
D. Obst. RCOG., FFCM.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector:

F.K. AZE

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors'
Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and
other Foods.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as
applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

H.S. BULL

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors'
Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of
Meat and other Foods.

Meat Inspector:

G. WOODS

Certificate in Meat Inspection issued by the Royal Society of Health
Diploma in Food Hygiene issued by the Royal Society of Health

Clerical/Technical Assistant:

MRS L.M. BIRD, B. Sc.

Rodent Operator/Foreman:

R.J. PHILLIPS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	21,870
Area (in acres)	15,530
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1971) as per rate books	7,164
Rateable Value, as at April 1st, 1971	£901,766
Sum represented by 1d rate (1970-71)	£ 3,615

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS :</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Newport M.B.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>**</u>
No. of live legitimate births	135	129	264		
No. of live illegitimate births	12	19	31		
Rate per 1,000 population (crude)			13.5	16.0	
Comparative factor			1.20	1.0	
Comparative Birth Rate			16.2	16.0	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			10.5	8.0	
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>					
No. of legitimate stillbirths	-	-	-		
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	1	-	1		
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			3.4	12.0	
Total live and stillbirths	148	148	296		
<u>DEATHS</u>					
Total number of deaths	144	184	328		
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			14.9	11.6	
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.62	1.0	
Comparative Death Rate			9.3	11.6	
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>					
Legitimate infants under 1 year	3	4	7		
Illegitimate infants under 1 year	-	1	1		
Legitimate infants under 4 weeks	3	4	7		
Illegitimate infants under 4 weeks	-	1	1		
Legitimate infants under 1 week	3	2	5		
Illegitimate infants under 1 week	-	-	-		
Infant Mortality Rates:					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			27.1	17.6	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			26.5	17.0	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			32.2	24.0	

	<u>Newport M. B.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	27.1	11.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	16.9	10.0
Peri-natal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	20.3	22.0
Maternal mortality (including abortion) rate	Nil	0.18

** With the exception of the Death (All Ages) Rate, all other Rates for England and Wales are provisional

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Other infective and Parasitic Disease	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	1
" " stomach	1	1
" " intestine	2	4
" " lung, bronchus	10	2
" " breast	-	5
" " Uterus	-	3
" " prostate	4	-
Leukaemia	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	5	12
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2
Anaemias	-	1
Mental Disorders	1	2
Meningitis	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	2
Hypertensive disease	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	43	28
Other forms of heart disease	5	14
Cerebrovascular disease	24	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	13	17
Pneumonia	8	15
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	2
Asthma	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-

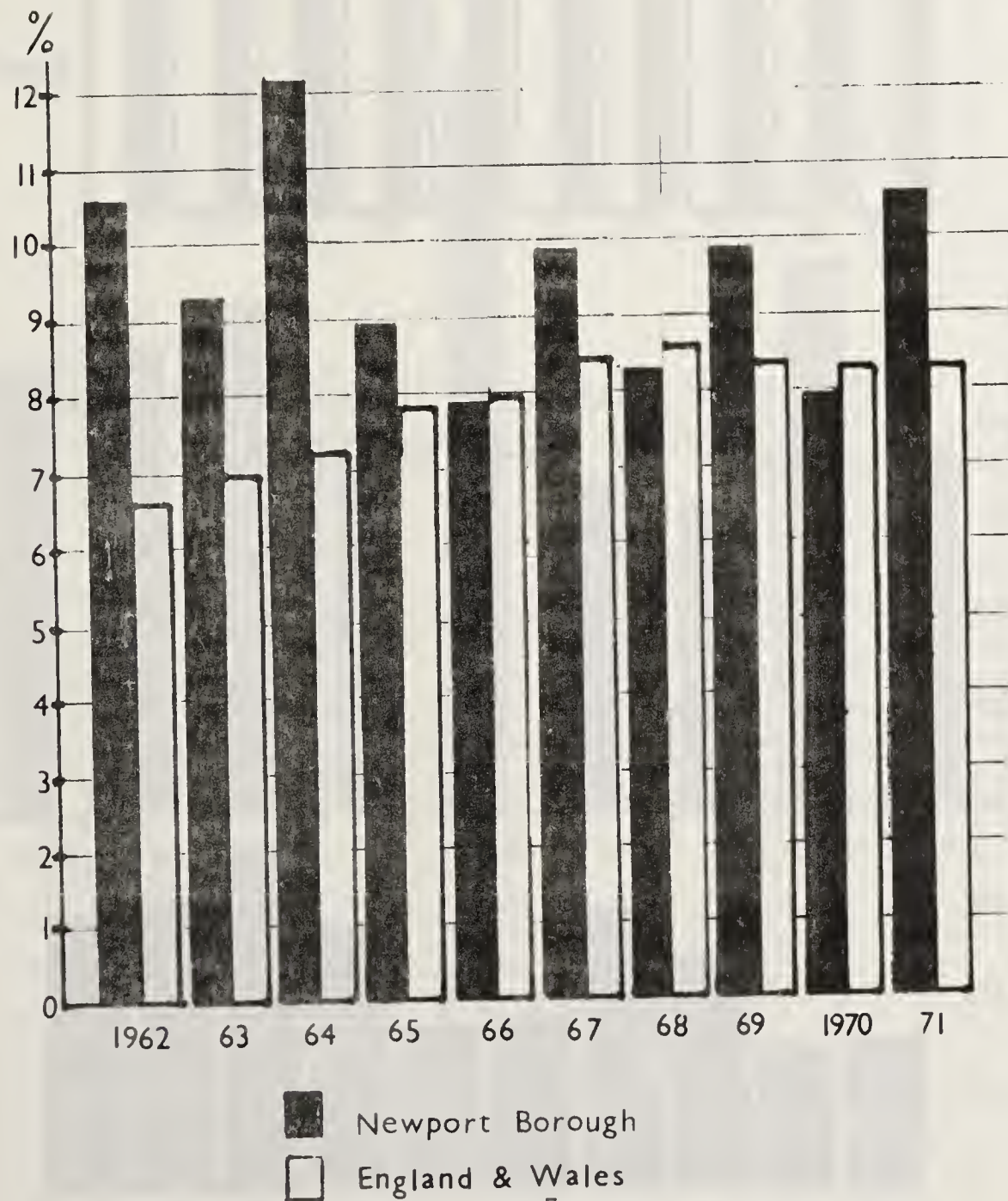
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
Other diseases of Digestive System	1	4
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	2
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal system	1	1
Congenital anomalies	1	3
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	1
Other causes of Perinatal mortality	1	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	3	8
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
ALL CAUSES ...	144	184
	<hr/>	<hr/>

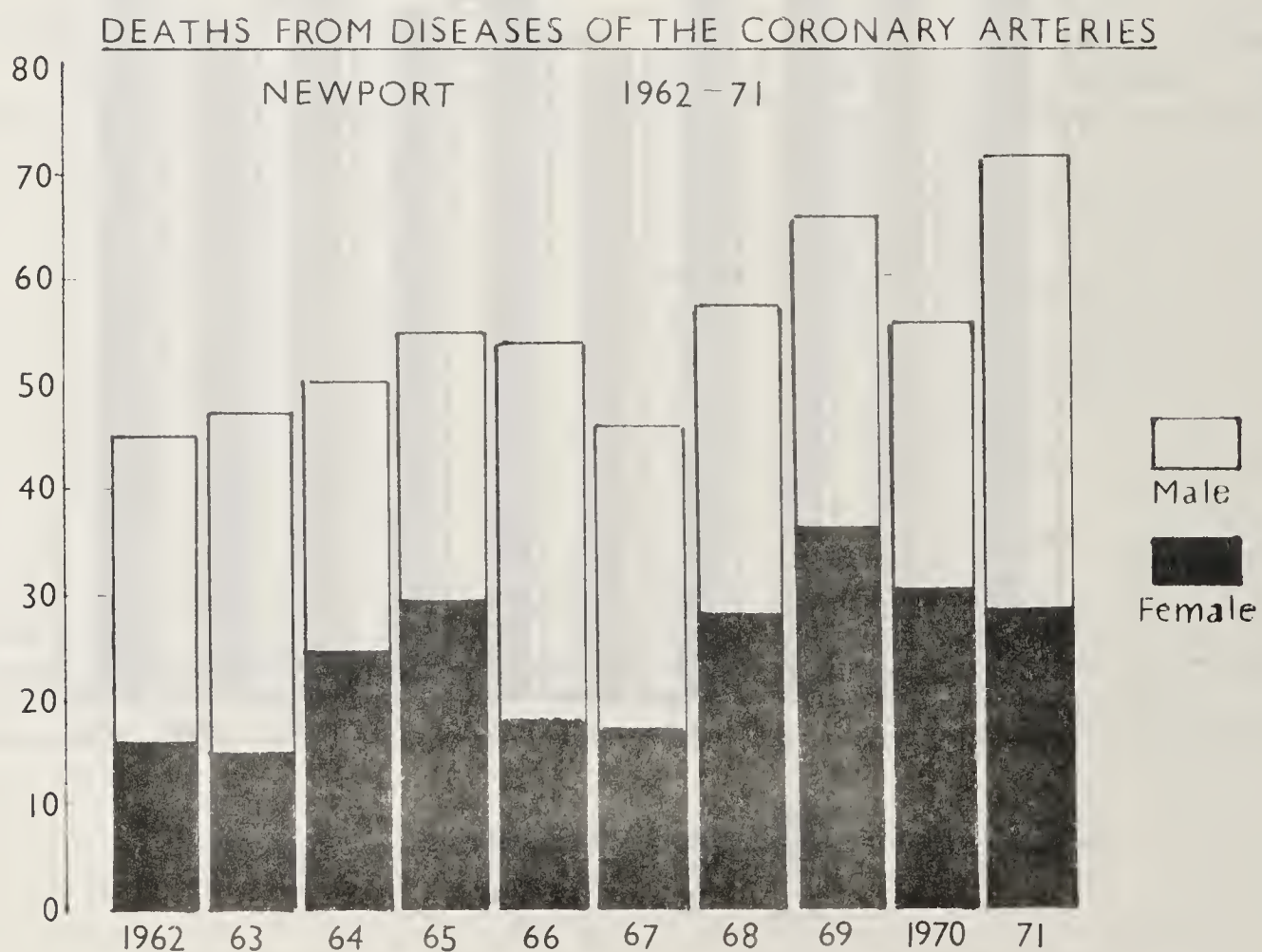
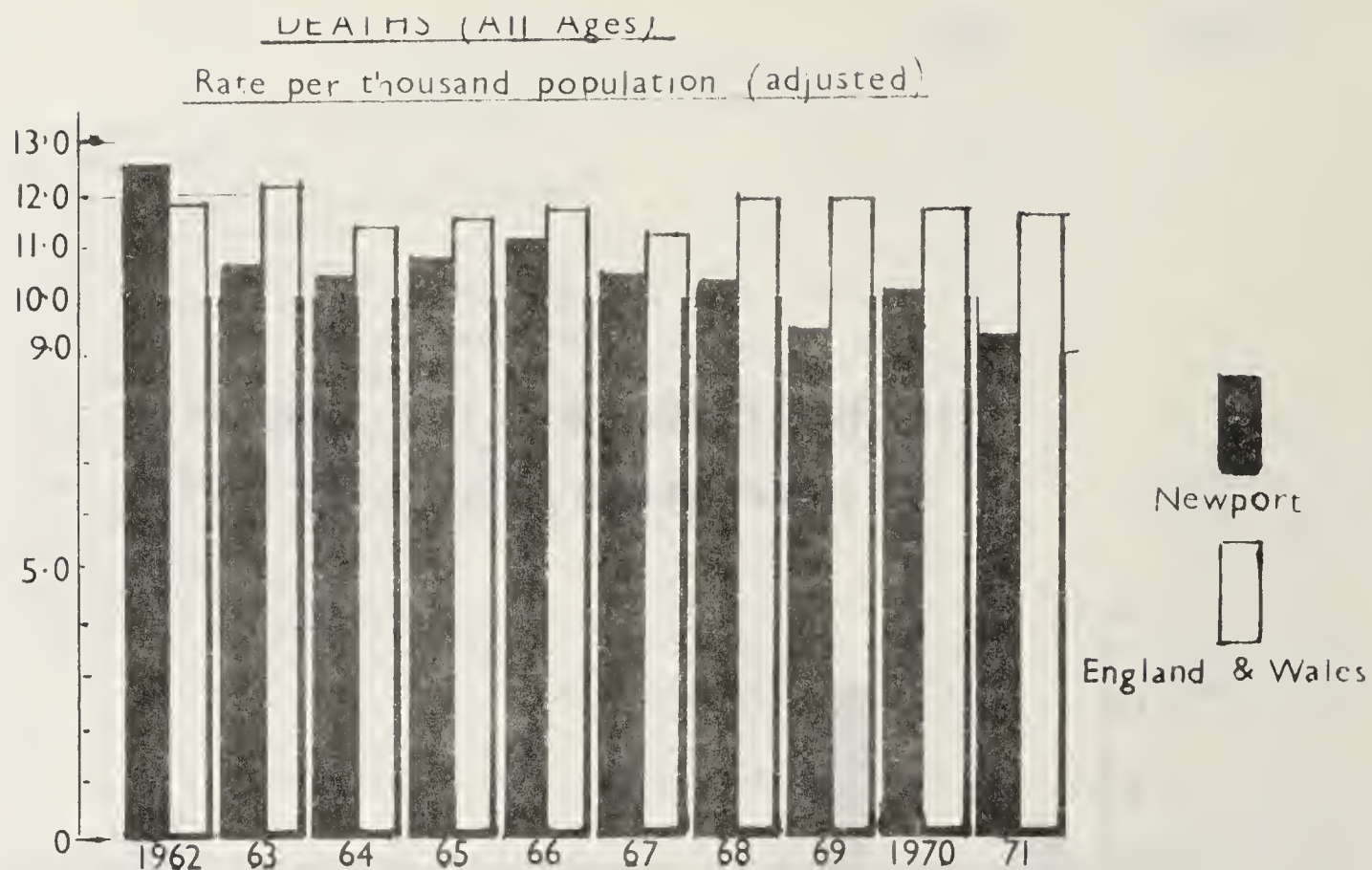
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
1971

Age	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Infective Jaundice	Tuberculosis Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Malaria	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
1 - 2 years	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -10 years	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
10 -15 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
15 -20 years	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
20 -25 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 -35 years	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
35 -45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -55 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 -65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	13	1	1	2	1	1

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year

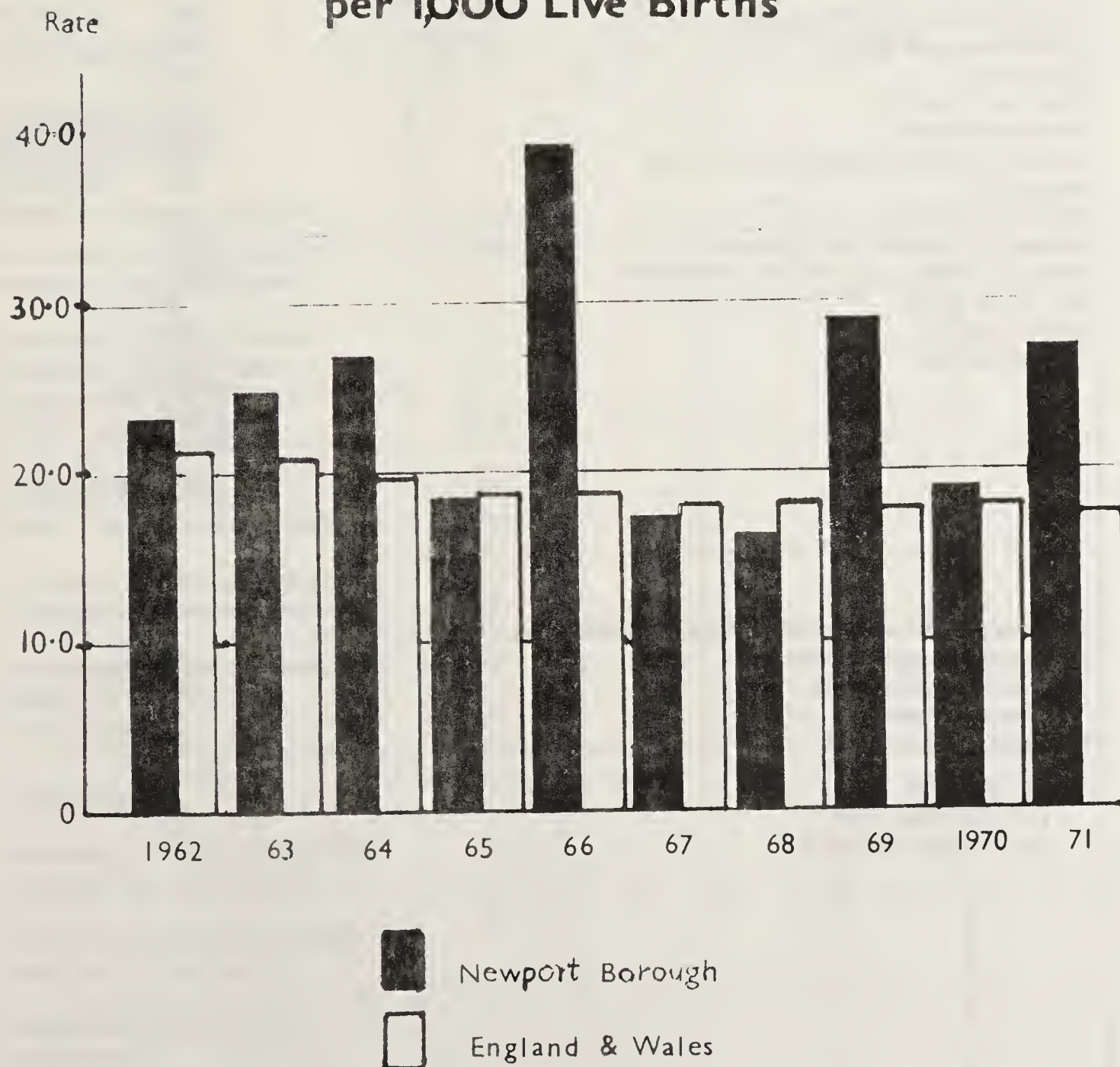
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS as percentage of all Live Births





INFANT MORTALITY

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year
per 1,000 Live Births



SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	379
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	299
Caravan Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Food Preparation Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	294
Foodshops and Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	260
Bakeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	954
Rodent Control (Supervisory Visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Noise Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	373
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	222
Knackers Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	310

3,459

Statutory Notices Served - Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Notices Complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Complaints Received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Water samples								
(a) Drinking water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
(b) Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No Killed	2,249	515	850	2,134	23,378	-
No Inspected	2,249	515	850	2,134	23,378	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	8	30	15	155	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	299	358	8	22	1,024	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	13.3	72.4	4.5	1.7	5.04	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	133	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.56	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	5	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qtrs</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
Total meat condemned	22	12	2	9
Other foodstuffs	7	5	0	15
	<hr/> 29	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 24

In addition 1,699 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The following slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1971:-

1. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, Newport, occupied by F M C (Meat) Limited
2. 35-43 Scarrots Lane, Newport, occupied by Bennett & Hamilton Limited.

Nine hundred and fifty-four visits were made to slaughterhouses in connection with meat inspection and licensing.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council was 23.

The above slaughterhouses have to serve the whole of the Isle of Wight and although they are adequate to cater for the present needs of the Island, they both fall short of the requirements of modern abattoirs and also the standards required for export of carcase meat to the E.E.C.

The report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses (England and Wales), published in July 1955, recommended one slaughterhouse for the Isle of Wight and also gave much useful information on construction, layout, and locations of slaughterhouses throughout the country.

In 1956, however, the Government decided not to adhere to the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee with the result that an increased number of slaughterhouses continued to operate.

In 1960 the Council rejected the Health Committee's recommendation to erect a public abattoir which was to have been sufficient to meet the probable future requirements of the Isle of Wight.

During 1971 the Chief Public Health Inspector has had further discussions with officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and The Meat and Livestock Commission on the requirements of a modern abattoir for the Island. Negotiations are now proceeding with the Isle of Wight County Council for the purchase of two acres of land on the New Industrial Estate at Newport, for possible use as a site for a public abattoir.

KNACKER'S YARD

The following knacker's yard was licensed for the year 1971:

Park Green Farm, Forest Road, Carisbrooke,
occupied by A. and D. Biles, Trafalgar Cottage,
Union Street, Newport.

FOOD PREMISES

<u>Food Trade</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Bakehouses	3
Bread and Cakeshops	5
Butchers	16
Canteens	8
Confectioners Shops (including ice cream)	21
Dairies	6
Fishmongers	4
Fried Fish Shops	5
Greengrocers	16
Grocers	54
Hotels	7
Licensed Premises	52
Cafes and Restaurants	34

Regular inspections of food shops and food preparation premises has continued throughout the year. Many premises have been improved structurally and most of them maintain a good standard of hygiene. There is, however, no room for complacency. Proprietors, their staffs, and the Health Department all have their part to play in the transport, handling, and preparation of food, and in the maintenance of good premises. I would like to see far more interest taken by members of the public, either by refusing to purchase food from shops where cleanliness or food handling is unsatisfactory, or by pointing out such matters immediately to the management. A more critical public could do much to improve standards.

HOUSING

During the year three dwellinghouses were dealt with by the Council as unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

The emphasis for the moment seems to be on improvement and reconditioning of older houses, and the building of new Council houses and flats to meet the needs of those on the long waiting list and the elderly.

Whilst there might be some need for further clearance of unfit houses in the future, it should be remembered that 230 such houses were dealt with between 1955 and 1970 and the tenants rehoused by the Council.

RODENT AND INSECT PEST CONTROL

The following inspections under Part 1 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 were carried out during the year:-

Local Authority Premises	...	...	...	...	...	133
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1121
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	450
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	...	148

A total of 1042 treatments by poisoning with warfarin was carried out to deal with rats and mice in premises of all kinds. One ship was inspected on behalf of the Cowes Port Health Authority in connection with a Rodent Control Certificate and 61 contracts for rodent control in business premises were in operation.

As in previous years, wasps' nests accounted for the majority of complaints concerning insect infestations - 92 nests were destroyed. 61 cases of cockroaches, ants, beetles, earwigs, etc. were dealt with and 8 flea infestations successfully treated.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Seven thousand and fourteen private dwellings have a weekly collection of domestic refuse and 19 farms and cottages have a fortnightly collection. Trade refuse is collected from 3 to 5 times per week from shops and business premises in the town.

The service employs 15 men on collection duties and one at the refuse tip.

Collections are made by three 35/50 cu yd Dennis continuous loaders, one 18/25 cu yd Dennis continuous loader (reserve) and one 16 cu yd side loader rear tipping Ford Eagle.

Disposal is by crude tipping at two adjacent tips at Briddlesford Road, and during the year both tips caught fire. In one case the fire was accidental and in the other case trespass was suspected. With considerable difficulty, and at some expense, it was possible to continue tipping. By 1972 it is anticipated that all household and trade refuse will be pulverised and tipped at Stag Lane, Newport, by the Newport Joint Refuse Disposal Authority, on behalf of Newport, Cowes and the Rural District Councils.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies to the Borough were satisfactory as regards quality and quantity. No contamination of any significance occurred.

Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination, chiefly by the Isle of Wight River and Water Authority, gave the following results:-

<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
85	Nil	2

The two unsatisfactory results were in respect of well water samples and appropriate action was taken.

No samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year. The sources of water were unchanged; the supply is hard and not liable to plumbo-solvency.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

A new Clerical/Technical Assistant was appointed in March. She has been mainly concerned with duties under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 and this has enabled the Department to reduce the backlog of overdue general inspections. Reproduced below are the statistics as at 31st December 1971 from the Annual Report supplied to the Department of Employment.

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No of Premises Newly Registered during 1971</u>	<u>No of Registered Premises at end of year</u>	<u>No of registered Premises receiving General Insp actions during yr</u>	<u>No of persons Employed</u>
Offices	13	105	45	742
Retail Shops	18	163	37	1041
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	18	1	319
Catering Establishments open to public, Canteens	-	18	1	116
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2	-	3
TOTALS	31	306	84	2221
Total Males Employed	962			
Total Females Employed	1259			
Total number of visits by Inspectors to registered premises 222				

Eight minor accidents were reported; seven of these occurred in warehouses and one in a retail shop. Six of the accidents were investigated and none were found to be caused by contraventions of the Act.

Forty-three informal notices were served, and compliance effected in forty-one cases.

During the year, particular attention was paid to the problems associated with the storing of goods in warehouses, the pallet method of stacking goods having caused concern. Where cases of canned goods were stored on pallets to some considerable height, a potential hazard to employees existed. The main risk was associated with the use of fork-lift trucks in the warehouse. If at any time the operator did not exercise the greatest of care in manoeuvring his vehicle, it was possible to strike one or more of the pallets at the bottom of the stack, causing any number of cases to fall on top of the truck. Also, if the forks of the truck were carelessly positioned, prior to lifting a pallet, it was possible for goods to be knocked off adjacent pallets or tipped off the pallet that was to be removed. During the year, one accident of this type

was reported, when a case toppled from a pallet and struck the driver of the fork-lift truck. A similar accident was also reported in 1970. The need for care in operating fork-lift trucks has been emphasised to employers and employees and notices outlining safety precautions have been posted in most premises.

Special attention has also been paid to the safe use of food slicing machines. In the course of inspections it was noted that with the exception of most of the large supermarkets, many of the staff working in food premises where food slicing machines had been installed were unaware of the potential hazards associated with the machines. Discussions with staff in a number of small shops and food preparation premises have shown that the staff were not fully conversant with the safe operation and adequate cleaning of these machines. In one particular premises the staff were quite unaware that the guards had to be removed for cleaning purposes and some parts of the machine had never been cleaned since installation.

Booklets prepared by the Department of Employment and Productivity, providing valuable theoretical information on the safe use of food slicing machines have been distributed to appropriate employers and two members of staff have visited the Health and Safety Centre at Horseferry Road, London SW1, in order to obtain practical advice and information on the safest methods of dismantling and cleaning machines.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health

PART 1 OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS

Premises	No on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	-	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	136	10	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	-	-	-
TOTAL	155	10	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	Referred by H. M. Inspector	No of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No of out-workers in August list required by Sec 133 (1)(c)	No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, Making etc.	3	-	-	-	-	-

